

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being submitted in parallel with this response. Applicant requests the Examiner's consideration of the reference cited in the supplemental IDS prior to any further action on this case.

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 19, 2005. Applicant has canceled claims 1-8 and 18; amended claims 9-17 and 19; and added new dependent claims 20-26. Claims 9-17 and 19-26 are now pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Orlov (US 6,108,110). The Examiner indicated that claims 17 and 18 are allowable over the prior art of record.

In this Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 9 and 19 to recite the patentable subject matter identified by the Examiner with respect to claim 17. Applicant has also made a clarifying amendment to claim 17. Applicant has also amended dependent claims 10-16 so that the dependent claims are consistent with the amendments to claim 9. New dependent claims 20-26 are similar to amended dependent claims 10-16.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also provisionally rejected claims 17 and 18 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending application number 10/775,505. Based on the amendment filed on February 28, 2006 for copending application number 10/775,505, Applicant believes that the copending case will be allowed. Accordingly, Applicant is hereby submitting a Terminal Disclaimer in this case to obviate the double patenting rejections.

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any

additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 09-0069. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date: 3/20/06

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